

Testimony of Daniel Spurr, 134 Ledyard St., New London, CT
in favor of S.B. 948, An Act Addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity In Connecticut

There is a tremendous disparity in our state as to how schools are funded and while steps like the Educational Cost Sharing formula seeks to address this issue, they are not adequate to address the profound problems of racial inequality and inequity in our school systems. Our system of local property taxes funding our school systems helps to reinforce disparities in school funding, whereby wealthier districts have more funding than poor districts, even though these poorer districts and students living in poverty have more needs. As wealth and income disparity continues to grow in our state and country, this disparity continues to grows. And the disparities are particularly pronounced around racial lines. Districts with a high percentage of BIPOC students receive hundreds of thousands of dollars less in funding than districts with a high percentage of white students. School districts that have student populations that are majority BIPOC spend \$2,300 less per student compared to districts that have a majority white student population.

If we are serious about addressing the systemic and historical racial inequities in our state, education is fundamental and equity for our children is essential. If we are to close the gaps in income, wealth, health, and safety created by centuries of systemic racism we need an equitable education system and this bill is a big step in that direction.